



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**JACK O'CONNELL**

State Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

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October 14, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Subject: Filing of Comments Submitted in Response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Published on July 20, 2005, in the Federal Register

The California Department of Education (CDE), Education Technology Office and the California E-rate Focus Group, a statewide advisory group that includes representatives of California school districts, county offices of education, libraries, E-rate consultants, and E-rate vendors, have prepared and wish to file the enclosed comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) published on July 20, 2005, in the Federal Register. In the just-referenced NPRM, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) states that it is initiating a broad inquiry into the management and administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF), as well as the FCC's oversight of the USF and USF Administrator, with the goal of finding ways to improve the program. In the NPRM, the FCC further states that it seeks comments on ways to improve the management, administration, and oversight of the USF, including simplifying various processes associated with USF support.

In response to the NPRM, the CDE Education Technology Office and the California E-rate Focus Group submit the enclosed comments. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara E. Thalacker, Ed.D., Administrator, Education Technology Office, at (916) 323-5072 or by email at [bthalack@cde.ca.gov](mailto:bthalack@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

JACK O'CONNELL

JO:pm  
Enclosure